million foreign tourists. However, the working group for the Ninth Five Year Plan reviewed the target and an 8% growth in tourist arrivals is considered feasible during Ninth Five Year Plan period.

Tourism in Rajasthan

883. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to make tourism more attractive, comfortable and cheap in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (c) Development of tourism is a continuing process and is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides assistance for development of tourism infrastructure based on specific project proposals received from the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations and the availability of funds. During last three years, the Union Ministry of Tourism sanctioned Rs. 415.00 lakhs to Rajasthan for the implementation of various tourism projects in the State.

Attracting Tourists to India

884. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of steps recently taken/initiated/contemplated to "sell" India to international tourists; and

(b) what has been the share of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Assam as recipient States in the proposed dispensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Various steps have been taken by the Central Government to position India as an attractive destination in the niche markets by way of partcipating in marts, advertising in Electronic and Print Media, organising of seminars, brochure support to travel trade, direct mailing, India Evenings, etc. The Tourism products of the State of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Assam form an integral part of the overseas marketing plans.

World Tourism Organisation

885. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would provide the World Tourism Organisation a platform for consultancy in tourism development;

(b) whether there are no experts in the country who are competent to deal with tourism;

(c) whether Government are aware that sex tourism and child prostitution are very much on the agenda of Western tourist organisations; and

(d) what legal/administrative measures Government propose to make our laws more stringent and effective to prevent such misuse of our hospitality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) World Tourism Organisation (WTO) is an International Agency and a part of the UN System. It serves as a global forum for tourism policy issues and a practical source of tourism know-how. In its capacity as the World Forum for tourism issues, it provides consultancy to various countries including India.

(b) There are several experts in the country who are competent to deal with tourism.

(c) The WTO has set up a Task Force on this issue.

(d) The existing laws of the country also deal with the crimes committed in the hospitality industry.

Safe pilgrimage to Amarnath, Badrinath and Kedarnath

866. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to make pilgrimage to Amarnath cave in Jammu and kashmir and to Badrinath and Kedarnath in Uttar Pradesh, safe and smooth;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?